

**Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes**

March 16, 2006
3:00 p.m.

Monday Afternoon Club
Willows, CA

Chair Glenn Hawes called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., followed by self-introductions. It was determined there was a quorum of voting members present (underlined).

| <u>County</u> | <u>Public Interest</u> | <u>Landowner</u> | <u>Agency</u> |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Butte | <u>Jane Dolan</u> | <u>Shirley Lewis</u> | |
| Colusa | <u>Gary Evans</u> | <u>Ben Carter</u> | |
| Glenn | <u>Denny Bungarz</u> | (Don Anderson) | |
| Shasta | <u>Glenn Hawes</u> | (Dan Gover) | |
| Sutter | (Dan Silva) | <u>Russell Young</u> | |
| Tehama | <u>Ron Warner</u> | <u>Brendon Flynn</u> | |
| Yolo | (Lynnel Pollock) | <u>Marc Faye</u> | |
| Resources Agency | | | <u>Jim McKeivitt</u> |
| Cal DWR | | | Dwight Russell |
| Cal DFG | | | Diana Jacobs |
| State Reclamation Board | | | (Lady Bug Doherty) |
| USF&WS | | | Catrina Martin |
| USCOE | | | (Brandon Muncy) |
| Bureau of Reclamation | | | Basia Trout |

Names listed in parentheses represent absences

SRCAF: TAC Chair Ajay Singh, Manager Burt Bundy, Assistant Ellen Gentry, Resource Conservationist Beverley Anderson-Abbs

Other identified attendees: Joan Philippe, City of Colusa; Dan Efseaff, River Partners (RP); Suellen Rowlison, RP; Gregg Werner, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Jeff Sutton, Family Water Alliance; Armand Gonzales, Department of Fish and Game (DF&G); Ron Keyawa, Landowner; Anjanette Martin, Colusa Basin Drainage District; Dan Obermeyer, Glenn County Planning and Public Works; Les Heringer, M&T Ranch.

2. Unscheduled matters

Les Heringer reported his March Board packet contained most of the follow-up information requested in the letter from the Sacramento Valley Landowners Association.

Ron Keyawa, landowner, stated that a study on neighboring landowners was missing from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge *Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment* (July 2004). He stated the report does not provide a mechanism for dealing with predation and felt the refuge is going to change his farming style. He would like to see a mechanism in place where problems can be solved.

Diana Jacobs reported that she will be retiring from the state July 1. Continuity will continue with Sandy Morey and Armand Gonzales, Central Region II.

3. Consent Calendar

The following changes were made to the January 19, 2006 Board meeting notes:

1) Ben Carter revised page 3, top paragraph, first line to read: "... (members) of the SRCAF Board have been attempting to get agreement on the GNP over the last five years."

2) Ben Carter revised page 3, top paragraph, last sentence to read: "..., but Colusa Subreach Planning's (CSP) own landowner surveys reflect the lack of support of landowners for restoration."

3) Ben Carter revised page 3, sixth paragraph, first sentence to read: "Ben Carter moved for the SRCAF to withdraw support for restoration..."

Ron Warner moved to adopt the minutes of the January 19, 2006 meeting with the above changes, seconded by Jim McKeivitt. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The Executive Committee notes were accepted by consensus.

4. Agency Reports

Basia Trout, Bureau of Reclamation, introduced herself and reported the Shasta Enlargement Project is looking at the alternatives of raising the dam 6 ½, 12 ½, or 18 ½ feet and conjunctive recreational uses. A fourth pump will be running this summer. Seven tons of spawning gravel will be placed in the river below Keswick Dam this fall to improve spawning opportunities for salmon.

5. Discussion, Direction & Possible Action for Good Neighbor Policy

Brendon Flynn, GNP Committee chair, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the redrafted Good Neighbor Policy (dated March 16, 2006). The committee, put together at the January Board meeting, includes 3 landowner representatives, 2 public interest representatives and 2 agency representatives. SRCAF has redrafted the policy with committee input since that time.

Ben Carter complained about a comment made by Brendon Flynn at the March 2 GNP Committee meeting in Willows. According to informal notes of that meeting, Ben was not in attendance. Ben acknowledged he rang in on the conference call meeting at 9:10, but failed to identify himself.

The GNP Draft has two addendums and the following five sections: Communication and Review (previously adopted by the Board), Regulatory Assurances for Incidental Take of Endangered Species, Mitigation Area, Conflict Resolution, and Good Neighbor Fund. Discussion continued regarding ESA laws, the Freedom of Information Act, and establishing baselines.

Catrina Martin used the term "shifting baseline" instead of "self mitigating area". She noted a Programmatic Safe Harbor, south of Sacramento, will be posted on the Sacramento F&W webpage. A link will be sent to the Board.

Brendon stated the SRCAF Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) parties are in agreement and want to participate. Ron Warner reported successful assistance with elected officials. Diana Jacobs added arbitration and mediation are always preferable.

Please provide comments to the GNP Committee by April 21. The GNP Committee will be meeting May 4 and will address issues brought forward. Glenn Hawes suggested action on the GNP Policy at the next Board meeting May 25.

6. Board Development Committee

Jane announced there were two committees to ratify. The Local Economic Issues Committee (chaired by Denny Bungarz) combines the Public Use Committee and the PILT/Economic Committee. The Financial Capacity Committee (chaired by Jim McKeivitt) consolidated the Outreach Committee and Finance Committee. Jane moved to ratify the two committees, seconded by Denny. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

7. Board Committee Reports

TAC chair Ajay Singh and Beverley Anderson-Abbs gave reports on the January and February TAC meetings. The Sacramento River Aerial Photo Atlas, from Keswick Dam to Colusa, is now available on the SRCAF website. Beverley gave a brief review of the Stillwater Plains tour at Glenn Hawes'. Glenn added that agencies he has worked with have been very courteous.

Project Tracker #111, the TNC acquisition of 6+ acres of riparian habitat within the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge, has gone before the TAC and the Board. Denny Bungarz stated there is no problem in Glenn County and moved to accept the project as meeting the guidelines and principles of the Handbook, Russell Young seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ben Carter asked for an update on Colusa Subreach Planning in light of the resolution from Colusa County objecting to CSP activities until landowner assurances are addressed. Gary Evans stated the county is asking for a timeout within the confines of Colusa until assurances for landowners in that county are in place. Burt Bundy reported the Executive Committee has agreed that the Colusa resolution does not apply to CSP because this is a planning process. The SRCAF is a subcontractor to provide outreach and support. Diana Jacobs stated the contract has already been entered into signed. The terms of the contract are a legal issue. Brendon Flynn added there are legal ramifications if the obligation and timeline is not met.

Gregg Werner reported the CSP project came before the Board in 2001 and was approved. The MOA was approved in 2004. Contracts for the studies have been approved and are in process. There is no funding involved for acquisition or restoration. Denny Bungarz added that Colusa County was involved in approving the scopes of work and the contracts. Burt Bundy offered a legal review and agency contracting to be made available for the next meeting. The Board gave direction for Burt to look into legal ramifications.

8. Future Meeting Dates

The next GNP Committee meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2006. May 25 is scheduled for the next Board meeting/BBQ, in conjunction with an Advisory Council meeting. Board meeting dates were also scheduled for the rest of the year: July 20, September 14, and November 16.